# CHRONICLE AND COMMENT OF THE STAGE

### New Plays This Week

MONDAY-At the Broadhurst Theatre Messrs. Lee and J. J. Shubert will present Rachel Crothers's new three-act comedy, "39 East." The cast is headed by Henry Hull and Constance Binney and includes Alison Skipworth, Lucia Moore, Gertrude Clemons, Victoria Sutherland and John Kirkpatrick. The play is a love story and tells the adventures of a young girl who comes from a far Western town to New York in search of fame. "39 East" refers to the address of a more or less fashionable boarding house. The three scenes are by Livingston Platt.

At the Forty-fourth Street Theatre Joseph Gaites will present "Take It From Me," a new musical comedy. The book is by Will B. Johnstone, cartoonist of "The Evening World," and the music is by Will R. Anderson. The cast includes Vera Michelena, Alice Hills, Georgia Manatt, Jack McGowan, Helen Raftery, William Balfour, Harold Vizard and the Gardiner Trio.

## All of Moliere But His Laughter

By Ralph Block

wan is D'Artagnan in his own image, every woman plays all the queens in her time. The playwright is no exception. He sees himself in the fine virtues of his most dashing hero. All the repartee he invents five minutes the repartee he invents five minutes and after the door has closed.

high a mark for the playwright and his actors to reach.

They do not make any splendid success of such a venture, nor do they deeply fail. As it is played out in its three settings, "Molière" discloses a constant of the playwright and his actors to reach.

go to history for the background of do not at any point overtop it. their aspiration. An artist owes some obligation to fact, much as it is his something more than the gossamer tischaff, and what fact remains comes life of greatness. fairly close to the truth.

left out. After the length and breadth of their play. you a breath, however brief, of the limitations are passed. yet finest sense, the strangeness of failed to pay theirs.

another time, when adventure could be There is no standard for romance; urged on by hot blood without the inevery one creates it and gives his own shapes to the empty forms of it out of his own mind. It is like music, which has as many meanings as there are minds and hearts to hear. Every wisdom. Surely this does not set too wisdom. Surely this does not set too man is D'Artagnan in his own image, high a mark for the playwright and his

afterward, after the docr has closed on him, he puts into his plays, along with the several splendid retorts he thought up at the bottom of the stairs. The fact that this is the psychology tional contemporary stage. But all of romance doesn't, however, throw these watermarks of quality do no down all the fences for dramatists who more than meet your expectation; they

inclination to avoid it. For a life that sue of elegant romance. It is considbuilds upon the stepping stones of its erably more the adventure of a great dead selves, it is just as immoral to man's life which is to be played out, libel and falsify the past as it is the borrowing from the reality of those present. Indeed, the present may often past days something of the tempo he deserve attack, where the past by its set it in, and supplying in the recreamany siftings-at least so we conven- tion by art a part of the flavor and tionally believe-has been rid of its unique fragrance of this very special It is here that the collaborators turn

Somewhere between them Mr. Moeller, who wrote "Molière," and Mr. Miller, who produced it, have failed to consider that limitation. It is not easy to believe their disregard was intentional. It is much easier to believe it was by a limitation of their imaginations and vision than by intention. In the composition of historical incident the dramatist has quite skilfully made the dramatist has quite skilfully made doing the immortal laughter of the a jointure which fits the hodge-podge of events that comes out of the life of dead genius. The additions to legend are entirely acceptable as episodes in a career of the time. Mr. Miller wears the stage of the Liberty Theatre. From first curtain to last he quite the kind of mustache the great is a sirupy, oversweetened, too-heroic, showman of the Grand Monarch's reign is disclosed with in the portraits. Assuredly there can be no cavil at what into their case of the genius who would not these collaborators have put into their take the world seriously enough. play. But somewhere there is an im- Laughter, the laughter of a man who pressive discrepancy; it is not so much sees the comedy of life, is what Mr. what has been put in as what has been Moeller and Mr. Miller, have left out

of Broadway's somewhat flashy pave- The informal biographers of the time ments there is an urgency about the have agreed to endowing Molière with mere production of such a play on delicacy in his private relations, with such a subject which predisposes you gentleness and kindliness. All this Mr. toward it, makes you agree even before the first curtain that you will be But the temptation to overreach the suited by it. It does not even need measure was too much. His "Molière" Mr. Miller's curtain speech to make runs on from sentiment to sentimentalyou turn gratefully toward a pros- ity, until, even with all the elasticity cenium that will blow out upon that romance is allowed, the legitimate RIVERSIDE - An all-star bill with Bowery Burlesquers at

grace and wit and elegance of a soci- The romanticist may have little or ety that still had only to regard the no obligation to the facts. He owes decoration of life, never its dulness. every obligation to the spirit. The This is remance in its commonest and creators of "Molière" assuredly have

## Roland Young

Only an interviewer hardened to with the Washington Square Players suffering as this one is not would at the Bandbox Theatre, and emerged have stayed after seeing how acutely unhappy it made Roland Young to be clous, Annabelle." His characterization interviewed. So, after five minutes had precisely the quality of sharp with Roland Young in the dressing delicacy and charm the Clare Kumroom of the 44th Street Theatre, the combination of whimsicality and where he is playing in "Luck in satire which is his individual mood. Pawn," the sight of the young man's

Arthur Bourchier.

Roland Young is still less than But one wonders how often Roland thirty, and has already achieved a list Young's unusually keen intelligence of unusually vivid impersonations, and subtle gifts of characterization Fortunately, his fine eagerness and in-telligenes have not wasted their edge to test his resistance by exposing it on dull plays. He came to this country to a long series of stupid plays. The in 1912 with the English company sleekness, glibness and insensitiveness which brought "Hindle Wakes," that of the average young actor is so largefresh and vigorous play of an English ly the result of a long exposure at low mill town girl who refused to indemnify a day of madness by a lifetime occasional fresh material that comes of expistion in marriage. Young once so often to renew the theatre-if played the part of the mill owner's there are plays to make use of him. son, who seduced the girl. If it is When the sophists have decided

into life the wraithlike hero of a more The results in personal information than ordinarily flaccid play, "Luck in were meagre. They were, chiefly, that, Pawn." It is an achievement of having achieved a dazzling failure as Young's main strength-so much could a draughtsman in his father's archithe play thumped after him. Doubttectural office, Young was faced with less, every young actor of robust asthe Englishman's alternative of Aus- pirations should have in his bag of tralis or Canada, whereupon he bolted tricks, for the emergency when forfor London and joined the company of tune is at ebb, this extremely useful one of lifting himself by his own boot-

resistance to the inanities of stage draw-

ever planned to manacle Young to his whether the egg was created before the comedy, some one should in-their energies to deciding whether yeks the memory of his intense por- "type" netors breed type plays, or the trayed of the stolid and sullen lout, reverse. It is not easily to be denied A little fater he appeared with Emanu- that the writing of plays was never al Reicher in "John Gebriel Bjorkman,"
pleying the part of the old friend who
is Bjorkman's link with the outside

"box for a see on he frished old theatrical devices.

B. D.



### Vaudeville

PALACE-Marie Dressler's return to traction vaudeville after two years spent in SHUBERT RIVIERA-Bertha Kallch new act are the principal features of the bill. Other features are Winston's Water Lions.

ROYAL - Mme. Petrova is the headliner of a bill that includes Josie Heather, Georgie Price, Henry Devine and Williams, Karl Emmy's Pets and the Royal News Pictorial. turn engagement.

ALHAMBRA-George White and his dancing quartet head the bill. "The Kiss Burglar" Moves Stuart Barnes in songs and monoand Flo Lewis in songs and dances nounced, is indefinite. are other features of the bill.

Bert Williams, Van and Schenck, Chilson-Ohrman, Lillian Shaw and Jack Kraft in songs and dances, and of vaudeville specialties. Burns and Torrence in "The Awakening of the Toys."

COLONIAL-Five members of the 27th Division presenting a military play, The 27th Division musical success Neil Moore in a tabloid musical comedy, George Whiting and Sadie

To fudge from "Let's Beat It" one Burt, Felix Rush in "Crosby's Cor- would never know there had been a

duction "Life's Greatest Problem," been accomplished. with Mitchell Lewis, is the picture Plans are now being formulated to "The World We Live In."

Woman" comes here this week.

LOEW'S SEVENTH AVENUE-Baybardi, Ltd., with Leo Carrillo and

At the One-Week Houses

Grace Valentine, is this week's bill.

Keane and company in Aaron Hoffman's sketch, Ward Bros., the Gliding O'Mears, the Gliding O'Mears, Devine and Williams Karl Empowers.

MAJESTIC—"The Little Brother," in "The Off Chance," playing the part only in New York. Since then he has ducer, Miss Tessa Kosta came again to prove the painful record of what I am doing the part of the part o

MONTAUK-"Penrod" plays a re-

To Nora Bayes Theatre logue, Frances Nordstrom and Will- "The Kiss Burglar," the musical roiam Pinkham in a sketch called "The Memory Book," the Mellette Sisters in songs and dances, Frank J. Arcath Nora Bayes's Theatre to-morrow even "RARRIE AT HIS REST." Times. in a rural travesty and Frank Joyce ing. The engagement there, it is an-

Columbia This Week The Bowery Burlesquers, one of the the Ford Sisters is this week's 6ldest organizations in this class of special offering. The supporting bill entertainment, will be at the Columwill include Edmund Hayes and com- bia Theatre to-morrow afternoon with pany in Arthur Hopkins's play a new two-act burlesque called "The "Moonshine," Henry Master and Health Hunters" and a long programme

### Soldier Show in Full Swing at the Century

"Intelligence," is the leading feature 'Let's Beat It" opens its second week of the bill. Herman Timberg in at the Century Theatre to-morrow "The Viol-Inn," Ethel Cochran and night. It has been a big week for the

ners," Mignon in impersonations, Counte Peronne, barytone, and Ishi-devoid of even a suggestion of war. kawa Bros., acrobats, complete the The show is downright pretty from the Pawn, the sight of the young man's manifering touched me with pity, and I This week saw the accomplishment of a tour de force when he galvanized Footlight Revue is the principal artist could beautify those eyes which vaudeville feature the first part of for nine months were peering over the week. J. Stuart Blackton's pro- parapets in France, but that feat has

attraction. "Temptation," a musical take the show on the road at the comcomedy production, heads the bill pletion of the three weeks' run in this the second part of the week. The city. If it is decided to take the troupe picture feature is Alice Brady in on tour the principal New York State cities probably will be made first.

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## Who's Who in Current Plays

name part in Maeterlinck's "A Burgo-master of Belgium," at the Belmont fall in "Freedom," the spectacular of-fering which opened the Century's "But she's a dancer," protested For-"But she's a dancer," protested Forducer, first with Herbert Trench and entire production. later with Frederick Harrison, Of the When Miss Tessa Kosta, the little "The Royal Vagabond" was being en-STANDARD-"A Tailor-Made Man," "The Bluebird." It was only after the Sam Forrest, general stage director for the ingenue rôle he remembered takes a week for all the seconds to STANDARD—"A Tailor-Made Man," "The Bluebird." It was only after the with Grant Mitchell, is this week's attraction.

SHUBERT RIVIERA—Bertha Kalich the play at the New Theatre now the state of the play at the New Theatre now the state of the play at the New Theatre now the state of the play at the New Theatre now the state of the ingenue role he remembered accomplishments. "But this her varied accomplishments. "But this part requires an actress," he explained. "Your singing and dancing the play at the New Theatre now the state of the ingenue role he remembered that actor. Their paths then crossed for the first time. Forcest was playing a one the play at the New Theatre now the state of the ingenue role he remembered that actor. Their paths then crossed for the first time. Forcest was playing a one the play at the New Theatre now the state of the ingenue role he remembered the varied accomplishments. "But this out of the average bruise, and the chart play at the New Theatre now the state of the remembered that actor. Their paths then crossed for the first time. Forcest was playing a one would be secondary." war work and Jack Norworth in a and the original cast of "The Riddle: the play at the New Theatre, now the night engagement in Salt Lake City, would be secondary."

MAJESTIC-"The Little Brother," a director. He joined Ethel Barrymore was made of Forrest's play,

Theatre, won his first fame at the Haymarket in London. At that theatre for
market in London. At that theatre for
seven different and exacting rôles in
"You should hear her sing!" purred
"You should hear her sing!" nine years he was both actor and prothe spectacle, but he also directed the his wife. Which Forrest did.

Century Theatre, in New York City. but business was bad, for on that even- "But I can act," said Miss Kosta want to fall on my ear I collapse of ing Miss Tessa Kosta, a local child sweetly, "Why, I have notices that"-The call of the stage, however, was next day the papers ran columns about to-morrow morning. I'll believe you bumps. Of course, it necessitates taktoo strong for Mr. Swete to remain as the event, while scarcely a mention can do anything."

appeared in "Belinda," in Barrie's "The his attention. She was now a profes- "Yassah," acknowledged the colored for art?"

sional dancer, and friendly Chicago recipient of the reminder. Moses is critics hailed her as the coming Genée. Valet to Johnny Dooley, the acrobatis comedian of "Listen Lester," at the agreed that they might be right.

Jane Gowl in "The Crowded Hour"

in Take it

Last season when "Chu Chin Chow" was in New York Miss Mary Ryan, who told the mystified bystanders. E. Lyall Swete, who is playing the New World," as the uncle in "Helen formance and came home singing the name part in Maeterlinck's "A Burgo- With The High Hand," and finally this praises of "that silver voiced little acrobat doesn't hurt himself because

"You should hear her sing!" purred

plays brought out under his direction prima donna of the new Cohanized gaged and Miss Kosta presented herthe most important was Maeterlinck's "Royal Vagabond," was five years old self at Mr. Forrest's managerial door received and make a record of them

Sheila Terry in a tabloid musical and Veiller's melodrama, "The Thircomedy, Toney and Norman in a skit, Lou Holtz, singing comedienne, and BRONX OPERA HOUSE—"Lom
Dose of directing "Chu Chin Chow"

Sweetly, "Why, I have notices that"

wonder, to dem't show a further open to the part. I use a new chart of the part of the par pose of directing "Chu Chin Chow." pianist. All Salt Lake City thronged No, don't show them to me. Just take every week and have adopted a 'carto the Kosta child's support, and the along this part and report at rehearsal ried forward' system for all unhealed

Knickerbocker Theatre.

"Greatest thing in the world," he "I take a lot of falls," he explained,

well bruised up.

"There's where the charts come i They enable me to catalogue the bumps Some weeks ago when the cast of I receive. You don't understand? Lis-

ing a weekly inventory of bumps, but

wait until Mr. Cort sees my charts.

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